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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(as of 1600 EDT)

1. Elements of the 82nd Airborne Division have advanced across the Duarte Bridge slightly beyond the west edge of the Ozama River. There is still a large gap between the 82nd Airborne and the Marines in the west of the city and it is this gap that includes the heavily populated part of the city where rebel forces have infiltrated. This is the only gap, according to current information, between San Isidro and the phase line which the Marines have established in western Santo Domingo.

2. Three Marine rifle companies of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Battalion have been ordered to arrive in the Dominican Republic. Total strength of these three companies is 1,375, although only about 900 can be airlifted at the moment.

3. Havana's Prensa Latina, in a radio report of 1045 EDT, stated that "constitutionalist forces" have gained control of the important town of Bonao. Havana's source of this information is not supplied. Earlier in the day, [redacted] Bonao is the danger point on the road between Santiago and Santo Domingo. There is a narrow bridge there and the town is a Communist stronghold.

4. Ambassador Bennett reported earlier today that he is having daily meetings with representatives of the American business community in Santo Domingo. Through their extensive local contacts and experience in the country, they state that they are in not the least doubt that the forces leading the rebels are now "pure Castro" and a few misguided and fanatical military officers such as Caamano.

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State Dept. review completed